

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 282015Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY QUITO

S E C R E T BRASILIA 10578

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN FROM CRIMMINS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR PINT EC CI PE BL BR
SUBJ: PERU'S INTENTIONS REGARDING CHILE AND ECUADOR

REF: BRASILIA 10514

1. DCM SAW AMBASSADOR ARAUJO, CHIEF OF AMERICAS DEPARTMENT, DECEMBER 28 (FIRST AVAILABLE APPOINTMENT) AND OUTLINED CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US CONCERNING PERU'S POSSIBLE INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO ITS NEIGHBORS AND REACTIONS IN OTHER LA CAPITALS.

2. AMBASSADOR ARAUJO RESPONDED THAT ITAMARATY HAS RECEIVED NO REPORTS FROM ITS EMBASSIES OF MILITARY PREPARATIONS BROUGHT ON BY MOUNTING TENSIONS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CANCELLATION OF PRESIDENT BERMUDEZ'S PLANNED STOPOVER IN QUITO HAD UNDOUBTEDLY PRODUCED A
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DETERIORATION IN PERU/ECUADOR RELATIONS, BUT CLAIMED THE PERUVIAN ACTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED SINCE ECUADOR HAD PLACED TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE VISIT - A PROBLEM WHICH, IN LIMA'S VIEW, DOES NOT EXIST. HE NOTED THAT THE UNEXPLAINED WITHDRAWAL OF PERU'S AMBASSADOR TO QUITO, AS WELL AS ITS MILITARY ATTACHES, CONSTITUTED

ANOTHER SIGN THAT RELATIONS WERE DETERIORATING. ARAUJO ADDED THAT, SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE CONFLICTING PROPOSALS OF CHILE AND PERU FOR RESOLUTION OF THE BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR PROBLEM HAD LED TO A WORSENING OF RELATIONS WITH PERU'S NEIGHBOR TO THE SOUTH. CHILE, AS THE PARTY PREPARED TO GIVE UP TERRITORY FOR THE CORRIDOR, EMERGED AS THE "GOOD GUY" IN BOLIVIAN EYES, FURTHER EXACERBATING THE SITUATION. CHILEAN/PERUVIAN TENSIONS HAD REMAINED SAFELY BURIED, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED, UNTIL THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY SAW FIT TO REASSERT ITS CLAIMS TO AN OUTLET TO THE SEA. WHILE CITING THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AMBASSADOR ARAUJO REITERATED THAT ITAMARATY HAS RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF WARLIKE PREPARATIONS OR EVEN SERIOUS TENSIONS.

3. QUESTIONED AS TO ITAMARATY'S VIEW OF BRAZIL'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THESE LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS, AMBASSADOR ARAUJO (REAFFIRMING A POSITION THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR HE HAS MADE KNOWN TO ALL PARTIES), STATED THAT BRAZIL IS IN A POSITION OF NEUTRALITY; THESE ARE DISPUTES AMONG NEIGHBORS WITH WHOM BRAZIL ENJOYS VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND BRAZIL HOPES THEY CAN RESOLVE THEM PEACEFULLY BY THEMSELVES. IF RESOLUTION IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THE MOMENT, HE SAID, BRAZIL HOPES THAT THE PROBLEMS CAN BE PUT ON ICE FOR THE TIME BEING.

4. AMBASSADOR ARAUJO STATED THAT IF WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BOLIVIANS, THE VARIOUS PARTIES IN THIS DISPUTE HAVE NOT MADE RECENT REPRESENTATIONS HERE. (A REMARK WHICH CONFLICTED SOMEWHAT WITH THE OBSERVATIONS OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTER (REFTEL.) THE BOLIVIANS, HE NOTED, ADVERTISE

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THEIR CLAIM TO A CORRIDOR ON ANY AVAILABLE OCCASION (HE MENTIONED AS AN EXAMPLE THIS YEAR'S MEETING OF THE NAVIES OF THE AMERICAS IN RIO).

5. SUMMING UP, HE REMARKED THAT FOR THE MOMENT, ITAMARATY SEES NO ROLE FOR BRAZIL OR ANY OTHER OUTSIDE NATION IN BRINGING ABOUT A RESOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS.

6. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR ARAUJO WAS CAREFUL TO INSERT "FOR THE MOMENT" IN DENYING THE DESIRE OR INTENTION OF BRAZIL TO PLAY A ROLE, SEEKING TO CONVEY ITAMARATY'S VIEW THAT FOR THE PRESENT, THE SITUATION IS NOT SUCH AS TO CAUSE REAL ALARM OR REQUIRE ACTIONS BY ANY OUTSIDERS. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE FROM THE EMPHASIS WHICH HE LAID ON THE CLOSE, FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT BRAZIL ENJOYS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS THAT THE GOB WOULD BE MORE THAN PREPARED TO TAKE ON A MEDIATING ROLE SHOULD TENSIONS CLIMAX. IN THIS RESPECT, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, IN

SAYING TO THE AMBASSADOR ON DECEMBER 25 THAT BRAZIL HAD
INFORMED ALL PARTIES THAT BRAZIL WAS NEUTRAL, HAD ADDED
THAT HE HAD EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE POSITION OF
NEUTRALITY WAS NECESSARY, EVEN IF ONLY TO PERMIT AN
EFFECTIVE MEDIATING ROLE, SHOULD THAT BE REQUIRED.
CRIMMINS

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